

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 21-25 are withdrawn.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) over EP 0945134 (hereinafter "Bock et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,284,269 (hereinafter "the '269 patent") and Parikh (The Handbook of Pharmaceutical Granulation Technology, 1st Ed., 1997, Marcel Dekker, pp. 60-72).

The presently claimed invention is directed to water soluble meloxicam granules comprising meloxicam, a salt forming agent, a binder, a sugar or a sweetener, and a carrier, and optionally a flavoring agent and/or other excipients, that dissolve rapidly in water and thereby forms a solution that is stable for at least 48 hours.

Bock et al. teaches compositions containing meloxicam and salts thereof, but does not teach binders, carrier or flavoring agents.

The '269 patent discloses compositions containing meloxicam which have improved water solubility. However, it also teaches using a cyclodextrin as essential to obtaining the greatest solubility in water. (See Examples IV/1-12). This teaches away from the present invention, which does **not** use a cyclodextrin to improve aqueous solubility. Hence, one of ordinary skill in the art reading this disclosure, and seeking to improve the aqueous solubility of meloxicam granules, would modify the composition of Bock et al. to contain a cyclodextrin. This modification does not arrive at the presently claimed invention, and thus, does not obviate the present invention.

Furthermore, Applicants know of **no** prior art that that could lead a person skilled in the art to the unexpected findings of the current invention, that the meloxicam granules as currently claimed would a) rapidly dissolve in water and that b) the resulting drinking water solution is stable for at least 48 hours. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

Application No. 10/694,569
Response dated May 1, 2008
Reply to Office communication of November 8, 2007

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in advancing prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney below.

Respectfully submitted,

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